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EXAMINER	
LAVARIAS, ARNEL C	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/650,038	HAISCH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Arnel C. Lavarias	2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 March 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *9-11,30-32,35 and 40-79* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *41,42,44-52,57-65 and 70-78* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *9-11,30-32,35,40,43,53-56,66-69 and 79* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/14/07 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendments to the specification of the disclosure in the submission dated 3/14/07 are acknowledged and accepted. In view of these amendments, the objections to the specification in Section 10 of the Office Action dated 8/22/06 are respectfully withdrawn.

3. The amendments to Claims 9-11, 30, 32, 35, 40, 43-45, 47-49, 51 in the submission dated 3/14/07 are acknowledged and accepted.

4. The cancellation of Claim 8 in the submission dated 3/14/07 is acknowledged and accepted.

5. The addition of Claims 53-79 in the submission dated 3/14/07 is acknowledged and accepted.

Election/Restrictions

6. Newly submitted Claims 57-65, 70-78 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

Claims 57-59, 70-72 are drawn to details of the microscopy system regarding the illumination system (e.g. the illumination light having particular wavelength ranges or the type of illumination source), classified in Class 359, subclass 385 (i.e. Invention II of the Office Action dated 5/26/05, and withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected invention).

Claims 60-65, 73-78 are drawn to details of the microscopy system regarding the use of a first and a second filter in the optical path, the filters usable for eliminating particular wavelength ranges of light, each filter filtering particular wavelength regions, classified in Class 356, subclass 417 (i.e. Invention III of the Office Action dated 5/26/05, and withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected invention).

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, Claims 57-65, 70-78 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Response to Arguments

7. In view of the affidavits filed under 37 CFR 1.132 on 3/14/07 and 2/9/04, the rejections in Section 12 of the Office Action dated 8/22/06 are respectfully withdrawn.

8. The Applicants' arguments filed 3/14/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

9. The Applicants argue that, with respect to amended Claims 9-11, the combined teachings of Kitajima and Frangioni fail to teach or reasonably suggest an image memory. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As previously set forth in Sections 14-15 of the Office Action dated 8/22/06, Kitajima specifically discloses an image memory (See 160, 161 in Figure 8 of Kitajima). In addition, the Examiner notes that the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference; nor is it that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981).

10. The Applicants further argue that, with respect to amended Claims 10-11, the combined teachings of Kitajima, Frangioni, and Furusawa et al. fail to teach or reasonably suggest at least a subseries of the set of first image data. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The Examiner notes that Furusawa et al. additionally discloses that, along with a series of images recorded at a rate of 1/30 sec. and displaying the white-light illuminated object, a single still image (i.e. a subseries image) is also displayed showing the excitation-light illuminated object which emits auto-fluorescence light (See specifically col. 7, line 32-col. 11, line 59 of Furusawa et al.).

11. The Applicants also argue that, with respect to amended Claim 35, the combined teachings of Kitajima and Frangioni fail to teach or reasonably suggest displaying the

recorded series of fluorescent light images of the object after the time period has lapsed. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. It is noted that features upon which applicant relies (i.e., having an intrinsic time delay that is twice the inverse frame rate which corresponds to the time needed for recording a series of (at least two) images) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

12. Finally, the Applicants argue that, with respect to amended Claim 40, the combined teachings of Chari et al. and Ohishi et al. fail to teach or reasonably suggest that the accumulation of indocyanine green (ICG) in the aneurysm sac be observed. Again, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., observation of the accumulation of ICG in the aneurysm sac) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Further, the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference; nor is it that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981).

13. Claims 9-11, 30-32, 35, 40, 43, 53-56, 66-69, 79 are now rejected as follows.

Claim Objections

14. Claim 79 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 79 recites the limitation "the repeatedly displaying" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is suggested that 'the' be removed to overcome this objection.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima (U.S. Patent No. 5865829), of record, in view of Frangioni (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0182321 A1), of record.

Kitajima discloses a microscopy method (See Figures 8, 12; col. 8, line 53-col. 14, line 67) for visualizing a fluorescence of an object to be inspected, the method comprising displaying a magnified first representation of the object for observation by a user, wherein the fluorescence of the object is substantially not visible in the first representation; recording at least one fluorescence light image of the object during a time period; and displaying the recorded series of fluorescent light images of the object after the time period has lapsed (it is noted that there is an inherent time delay between

recording the images on the camera and displaying the image on the display system) such that the at least one fluorescent light image is visible for the user and superimposed with the magnified first representation of the object. Kitajima does not explicitly disclose the image being plural images. However, generating plural sequential images and displaying such images is well known in the art. For example, Frangioni teaches a conventional medical imaging optical system (See for example Figures 1, 3-4) which provides simultaneous rendering of visible and fluorescent light images (See Abstract; Figure 4). In particular, Frangioni teaches the use of cameras both for the infrared light and visible light detection (See Paragraphs 0103-0107), which generate superimposed sequential images at a rate of approximately 15 frames a second and is displayed by a display (See 126 in Figure 1; 326 in Figure 3). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the image be plural images, as taught by Frangioni, in the method of Kitajima, for the purpose of providing a near-real-time (as opposed to a static) display of the image field.

17. Claim 79 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima in view of Frangioni.

Kitajima in view of Frangioni discloses the invention as set forth above in Claim 35, but does not explicitly disclose repeatedly displaying the recorded series of plural fluorescent light images. However, since Kitajima discloses that the series of image data are specifically stored in image memory (See 160, 161 in Figure 8) controllable via controller 66, it would have been readily evident and obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to play back the stored image data in the image memory one or more times, as

well as perform any number of other image processing functions on the image data stored in the image memory. One would have done this to simplify reviewing series of complex images without having to memorize or recall from one's memory, thus reducing mistakes.

18. Claims 9, 30-31,43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima in view of Frangioni.

Kitajima discloses a microscopy system for visualizing a fluorescence of a fluorescent substance in an object to be inspected (See for example Figures 1-4, 7-8, 10), wherein the microscopy system comprises a microscopy optics having a first beam path (See light paths passing from element 13 to elements 91, 91' via 80, 80', then to 90 in Figure 8; col. 8, line 53-col. 14, line 67) for optically imaging an object region onto a light detecting component of a first camera (See 91, 91' in Figure 8) for generating first image data representing images of the object region with light including wavelengths of a first wavelength range comprising a fluorescent emission wavelength of the fluorescent substance, and a second beam path (See light paths passing from element 13 to element 2 via 80, 80' and 35, 45 in Figure 8; col. 8, line 53-col. 14, line 67) for providing a magnified first representation of the object region, wherein the first representation represents images of the object regions with light including wavelengths of a second wavelength range comprising at least visible light; an image memory (See 160, 161 in Figure 8) for storing a set of first image data detected by the first camera during at least a time duration; and a display system (See 93, 93' in Figure 8) configured to sequentially display at least one second representations generated from at least a subseries of the set of

first image data such that the at least one second representations is displayed in superposition with the first representation for observation by a user (See also Figure 12). Kitajima additionally discloses the second beam path comprising at least one ocular for representing the magnified first representation of the object region (See 35, 45 in Figure 8); the display system being further configured to superimpose the at least one second representation with the second beam path directed to the ocular (See Figure 8; col. 53-col. 14, line 67); and the fluorescent substance comprises indocyanine green (See col. 12, lines 1-2). Kitajima does not explicitly disclose the images being plural images, the display system sequentially displaying plural second representations, and the display system being configured for repeatedly displaying the series of plural second representations in superposition with the first representation. However, generating plural sequential images and displaying such images is well known in the art. For example, Frangioni teaches a conventional medical imaging optical system (See for example Figures 1, 3-4) which provides simultaneous rendering of visible and fluorescent light images (See Abstract; Figure 4). In particular, Frangioni teaches the use of cameras both for the infrared light and visible light detection (See Paragraphs 0103-0107), which generate superimposed sequential images at a rate of approximately 15 frames a second and is displayed by a display (See 126 in Figure 1; 326 in Figure 3). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the images be plural images and the display system sequentially display plural second representations, as taught by Frangioni, in the system and method of Kitajima, for the purpose of providing a near-real-time (as opposed to a static) display of the image

field. The combined teachings of Kitajima and Frangioni do not explicitly disclose the display system being configured for repeatedly displaying the series of plural second representations in superposition with the first representation. However, since Kitajima discloses that the series of image data are specifically stored in image memory (See 160, 161 in Figure 8) controllable via controller 66, it would have been readily evident and obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to play back the stored image data in the image memory one or more times, as well as perform any number of other image processing functions on the image data stored in the image memory. One would have done this to simplify reviewing series of complex images without having to memorize or recall from one's memory, thus reducing mistakes.

19. Claims 10-11, 53-54, 56, 66-67, 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima in view of Frangioni and Furusawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6371908), of record.

Kitajima discloses a microscopy system for visualizing a fluorescence of a fluorescent substance in an object to be inspected (See for example Figures 1-4, 7-8, 10), wherein the microscopy system comprises a microscopy optics having a first beam path (See light paths passing from element 13 to elements 91, 91' via 80, 80', then to 90 in Figure 8; col. 8, line 53-col. 14, line 67) for optically imaging an object region onto a light detecting component of a first camera (See 91, 91' in Figure 8) for generating first image data representing images of the object region with light including wavelengths of a first wavelength range comprising a fluorescent emission wavelength of the fluorescent substance, and a second beam path (See light paths passing from element 13 to element 2

via 80, 80' and 35, 45 in Figure 8; col. 8, line 53-col. 14, line 67) for providing a magnified first representation of the object region, wherein the first representation represents images of the object regions with light including wavelengths of a second wavelength range comprising at least visible light; an image memory (See 160, 161 in Figure 8) for storing a set of first image data detected by the first camera during at least a time duration; and a display system (See 93, 93' in Figure 8) configured to sequentially display at least one second representations generated from at least a subseries of the set of first image data such that the at least one second representations is displayed in superposition with the first representation for observation by a user (See also Figure 12). Kitajima additionally discloses the second beam path comprising at least one ocular for representing the magnified first representation of the object region (See 35, 45 in Figure 8); the display system being further configured to superimpose the at least one second representation with the second beam path directed to the ocular (See Figure 8; col. 53-col. 14, line 67); and the fluorescent substance comprises indocyanine green (See col. 12, lines 1-2). Kitajima does not explicitly disclose the images being plural images, the display system sequentially displaying plural second representations, and the controller configured to select the subseries of the set of first image data from the set of first image data based on intensities or differences in intensities of the plural images represented by the first image data. However, generating plural sequential images and displaying such images is well known in the art. For example, Frangioni teaches a conventional medical imaging optical system (See for example Figures 1, 3-4) which provides simultaneous rendering of visible and fluorescent light images (See Abstract; Figure 4). In particular,

Frangioni teaches the use of cameras both for the infrared light and visible light detection (See Paragraphs 0103-0107), which generate superimposed sequential images at a rate of approximately 15 frames a second and is displayed by a display (See 126 in Figure 1; 326 in Figure 3). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the images be plural images and the display system sequentially display plural second representations, as taught by Frangioni, in the system and method of Kitajima, for the purpose of providing a near-real-time (as opposed to a static) display of the image field. The combined teachings of Kitajima and Frangioni do not explicitly disclose the controller configured to select the subseries of the set of first image data from the set of first image data based on intensities or differences in intensities of the plural images represented by the first image data. However, Furusawa et al. teaches a conventional color observation system for use in an optical imaging system (See Figures 1-4), such as an endoscope, wherein fluorescence image data recorded from the CCD camera (See 17 in Figure 1) is sent to a video processor (See 13 in Figure 1). The video processor is configured to select a subseries from the image data based on differences in intensities (particularly with respect to a baseline level) of the images in the image data (See Figures 5-14; col. 7, line 32-col. 11, line 59), and display a composite visible/fluorescence image. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the controller of Kitajima in view of Frangioni, be configured to select the subset of the set of first image data from the set of first image data based on intensities or differences in intensities of the plural images represented by the first image data, as taught by Furusawa et al., to simplify

detection and identification of abnormal conditions of the observation object in the composite images.

20. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima in view of Frangioni as applied to Claim 9 above, and further in view of Imaizumi et al. (JP 10325798A), of record.

Kitajima in view of Frangioni discloses the invention as set forth above in Claim 9, except for the first beam path comprising at least one light detecting component of a second camera for generating second image data representing images of the object region with visible light. However, Imaizumi et al. discloses a conventional microscope apparatus (See for example Figure 1), including a first beam path (See light paths passing from element 2 to element 63, then to 70, 72, 71 in Figure 1) for optically imaging an object region onto a light detecting component of a first camera (See 71 in Figure 1) for generating first image data representing images of the object region with light including wavelengths of a first wavelength range comprising a fluorescent emission wavelength of the fluorescent substance, and a second beam path (See light paths passing from element 2 to element 64 in Figure 1) for providing a magnified first representation of the object region, wherein the first representation represents images of the object regions with light including wavelengths of a second wavelength range comprising at least visible light. In addition, the first beam path also includes a light detecting component of a second camera for generating second image data representing images of the object region with visible light (See 72 in Figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the first path of the

microscope system of Kitajima in view of Frangioni, further include at least one light detecting component of a second camera for generating second image data representing images of the object region with visible light, as taught by Imaizumi et al., for the purpose of providing simultaneous observation and storage of both fluorescence and visible light image data, both of which may be played back at a later time.

21. Claims 55 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima in view of Frangioni and Furusawa et al. as applied to Claims 10-11 above, and further in view of Imaizumi et al.

Kitajima in view of Frangioni and Furusawa et al. discloses the invention as set forth above in Claims 10-11, except for the first beam path comprising at least one light detecting component of a second camera for generating second image data representing images of the object region with visible light. However, Imaizumi et al. discloses a conventional microscope apparatus (See for example Figure 1), including a first beam path (See light paths passing from element 2 to element 63, then to 70, 72, 71 in Figure 1) for optically imaging an object region onto a light detecting component of a first camera (See 71 in Figure 1) for generating first image data representing images of the object region with light including wavelengths of a first wavelength range comprising a fluorescent emission wavelength of the fluorescent substance, and a second beam path (See light paths passing from element 2 to element 64 in Figure 1) for providing a magnified first representation of the object region, wherein the first representation represents images of the object regions with light including wavelengths of a second wavelength range comprising at least visible light. In addition, the first beam path also

includes a light detecting component of a second camera for generating second image data representing images of the object region with visible light (See 72 in Figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the first path of the microscope system of Kitajima in view of Frangioni and Furusawa et al., further include at least one light detecting component of a second camera for generating second image data representing images of the object region with visible light, as taught by Imaizumi et al., for the purpose of providing simultaneous observation and storage of both fluorescence and visible light image data, both of which may be played back at a later time.

22. Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chari et al. (WO01/22870A1), of record, in view of Frangioni and Ohishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6721590), of record.

Chari et al. discloses a method of treating an aneurysm of a patient (See Figure 1; Page 5, line 31-Page 6, line 4; Page 7, lines 5-27; Page 8, line 28-Page 11, line 10), the method comprising administering a therapy to an aneurysm; injecting indocyanine green into the patient; generating at least one fluorescence image of at least one artery adjacent to the aneurysm under study (It is noted that the injection and generation steps may be performed before, as well as after, the administration of the therapy to the aneurysm, See Page 7, lines 5-27); assessing vascular blood flow of the at least one artery based on the at least one fluorescence image; assessing whether the indocyanine green accumulates in the aneurysm sac based on the at least one fluorescence image (It is noted that this would have been evident just based on review of the fluorescence image since a fluorescence

signal would indicate presence of indocyanine green); and assessing a complete blocking of the aneurysm if the indocyanine green does not accumulate in the aneurysm sac (See Figure 1, Page 7, lines 5-27; it is noted that this particular limitation is an 'if-then' conditional statement, and that the assessment is not required if accumulation of ICG occurs in the aneurysm; further, this would have been evident just based on review of the fluorescence image since a fluorescence signal would indicate presence of indocyanine green). Chari et al. does not explicitly disclose the specific steps of administering a therapy to an aneurism including clipping an aneurysm sac of the aneurysm using a clip, and generating a visible light image of the object region. However, Frangioni teaches a conventional medical imaging optical system (See for example Figures 1, 3-4) which provides simultaneous rendering of both visible and fluorescent light images (See Abstract; Figure 4). In particular, Frangioni teaches the use of cameras both for the infrared light and visible light detection (See Paragraphs 0103-0107), which generate superimposed sequential images at a rate of approximately 15 frames a second and is displayed by a display (See 126 in Figure 1; 326 in Figure 3). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to generate a visible light image of the object region, as taught by Frangioni, in the method of Chari et al., for the purpose of providing the operator with additional information in the form of visible light information (e.g. blood vessel structure) in addition to the fluorescence light information (e.g. blood flow information). The combined teachings of Chari et al. and Frangioni does not explicitly disclose the step of administering a therapy to an aneurism including clipping an aneurysm sac of the aneurysm using a clip.

However, Ohishi et al. teaches various therapeutic methods of aneurysms, including clipping and insertion of a coil-like occluding material into the aneurysm (See col. 1, line 6-28). These therapeutic methods may be done in conjunction with fluorescence imaging techniques (See Figures 1, 3-4), so as to assess the blood flow, or lack thereof, to the aneurysm (See Figures 1, 3-4; col. 4, line 19-col. 9, line 10, and especially col. 7, lines 29-col. 8, line 6). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the step of administering a therapy to an aneurysm, as disclosed by Chari et al. and Frangioni, include clipping an aneurysm sac of the aneurysm using a clip, as taught by Ohishi et al., for the purpose of preventing blood from flowing into the aneurysm, which may burst due to increased blood pressure and cause injury or death.

Conclusion

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnel C. Lavarias whose telephone number is 571-272-2315. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 AM - 6 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephone B. Allen can be reached on 571-272-2434. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Arnel C. Lavarias
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 2872
5/15/07

ARNEL LAVARIAS
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER